

# Special Advisory: Maratha Kranti Morcha rally in Pune

**September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

## Introduction

Pune Police have unveiled a plan for the traffic diversions for the day when Maratha Kranti Morcha rally will be organised in the city on Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup>. Some of the important arterial roads of Pune will remain closed for the movement of the rally from 7 am. The rally is slated to start from the open space in the riverbed, near Bhide Bridge, and will end at the Council Hall Square.

Police are expecting over 10 lakh members of the community to participate in this protest, slated to go through Laxmi Road. As a result, all major roads in the Peths connected to this arterial route will also stay closed to traffic till afternoon. The rally will move from Laxmi Road to the Council Hall. So, roads connecting these areas will have to be closed to traffic till rally moves away.

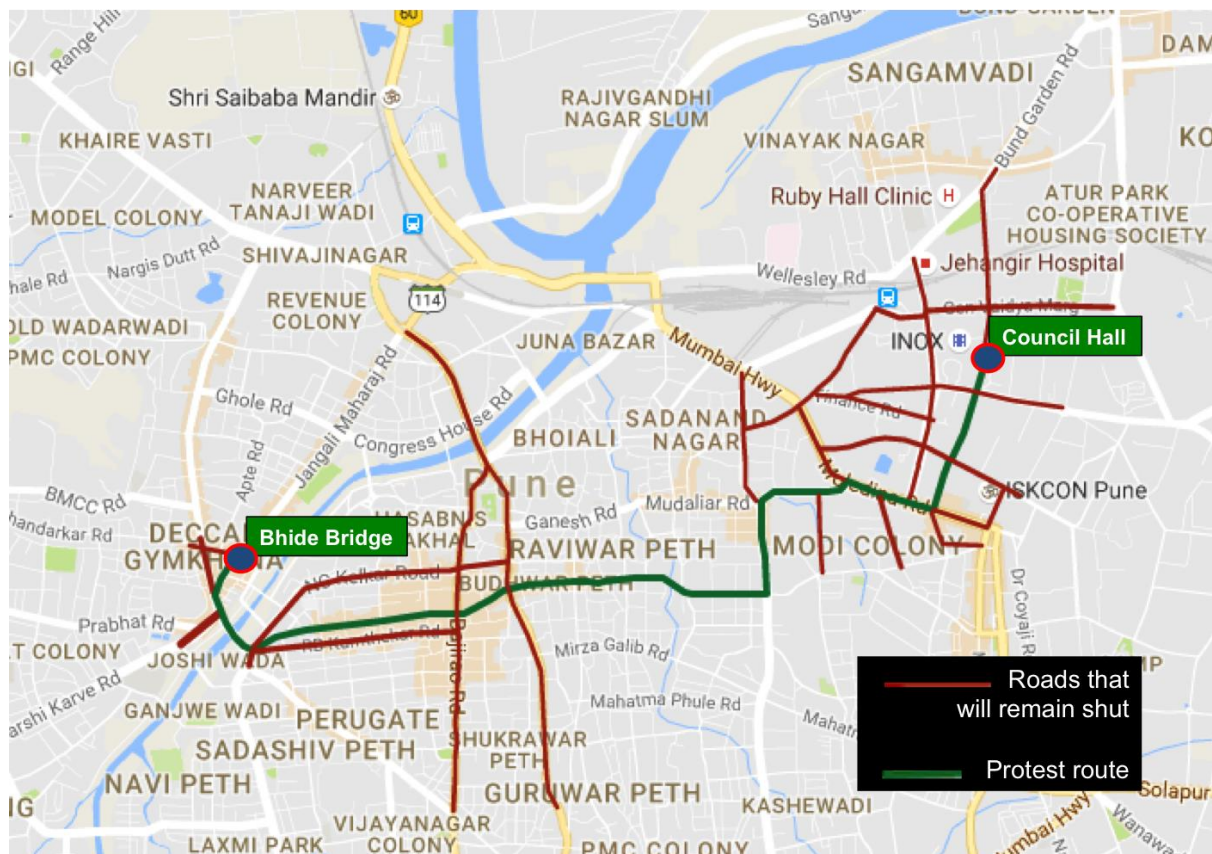
## Background

The Maratha community, a dominant force in Maharashtra politics, has been taking out silent marches (morchas) in various towns in the state over the last one month, following the rape and murder of a girl at Kopardi in Ahmednagar district two months ago. On July 13<sup>th</sup>, a 15-year-old Maratha girl was allegedly gang-raped and murdered by four Dalit youths at Kopardi village in Ahmednagar. After the gang-rape, Maratha Kranti silent morchas have been held in Akola, Nanded, Beed, Osmanabad, Aurangabad, Jalgaon and Jalna, Amravati, and Navi Mumbai districts over the last one month. The rallies have received huge response.

The protests may be 'silent' morchas but they have still caused a kind of tension in Maharashtra, the kind the state has not seen since it was formed in 1960. Apart from demanding death penalty for the accused, the Maratha leaders have also demanded the scrapping of the SC, ST (Prevention of Atrocities Act), stating that it is grossly misused; they have also raised other demands like quota in education and jobs for Marathas.

## Traffic Advisory by Pune Police

Organisers of the rally have asked participants to gather at the riverside road in Deccan on Sunday morning. The rally will start from the riverbed of Bhide Bridge. Then proceed to Natraj Chowk – Khandoji Baba Chowk – Tilak Chowk – Laxmi Road – Sant Kabir Chowki – Nehru Road (and enter Camp through Quarter Gate) – Power House Road - right towards Samarth Police Station towards Banerjee Chowk – right towards Nehru Chowk – Dorabji Mall Chowk – left turn towards Blue Nile Hotel – Council Hall Square.



## Roads Closed

The following roads will be closed for the rally:

1. Bolhai Chowk to Pune Station (Sasoon Road)
2. Bolhai Chowk to Sadhu Vaswani's statue (Finance Road)
3. Bolhai Chowk to Ambedkar's statue (Moledina Road)
4. GPO to Bolhai Chowk
5. Power House to Banerjee Chowk (Mudaliyar Road)
6. Kirad Road to SBI Chowk (Church Road)
7. Nehru Hall to Jehangir Chowk (Sadhu Vaswani Road)
8. Dorabjee Mall to Mangaldas Chowk
9. SBI House to Blue Nile Hotel (Tarapore Road)
10. Southern Command Signal to Sadhu Vaswani's statue (Maneckji Mehta Road)
11. Circuit House Chowk to Alankar Chowk (General Vaidya Road)
12. Quarter Gate Chowk to Sant Kabir Chowk (Laxmi Road)
13. Quarter Gate Chowk to Kader Chowk
14. Nehru Hall Chowk to J J Garden
15. RTO Chowk to Bolhai Chowk
16. Sancheti Hospital Chowk to Shahir Amar Chowk (Wellesley Road)
17. Quarter Gate to Shantai Hotel Chowk (Dam Road)
18. Apollo Cinema to Power House Chowk (Mudaliyar Road)

## Diversion Routes

- Vehicles headed from Swar Gate to Shivaji Nagar are to use: Jedhe Chowk – Jamanalal Bajaj Statue Chowk – left turn towards Savarkar Chowk – right turn to get onto Sinhgad Road – right at Sinhgad Road Junction to take Shastri Road to Senadatta Police Station Chowk – left at Mhatre Flyover towards Mahadev Mandir Chowk – Nal Stop / or head straight Sinhgad Road using Rajaram Flyover.
- Vehicles headed to Pune Railway Station from Swar Gate/Solapur Road can use the following route: Golibar Maidan Chowk – East Street or Khanya Maruti Chowk – Left turn towards Mummadevi Chowk – Arjun Road Junction – left turn to get onto Arjun Road to head towards Morodha Chowk – right towards Circuit House Chowk – use Sadhu Vaswani Flyover to get to Blue Diamond Chowk – right towards Mangaldas Chowk – Bund Garden Road, and then proceed ahead to destination.
- Vehicles headed for Deccan from Solapur Road can use the following route: Jedhe Chowk – Jamanalal Bajaj Statue Chowk – left turn towards Savarkar Chowk – right turn to get onto Sinhgad Road – right at Sinhgad Road Junction to take Shastri Road to Senadatta Police Station Chowk – left at Mhatre Flyover towards Mahadev Mandir Chowk – Nal Stop / or head straight Sinhgad Road using Rajaram Flyover.
- Vehicles coming to Swar Gate by Nagar Road can use the given route: Kharadi Bypass Route towards Magarpatta Road – Mundwa Road Junction – right towards Solapur Junction, and then proceed ahead to destination.
- Vehicles using Nagar Road to head to Shivaji Nagar / Kothrud can use the given route: Parnakuti Chowk – Mahatma Gandhi Udyan (Garden) – right towards Bund Garden Road – RTO Chowk – Engineering College Chowk – S G Barve Chowk – Shimla Office Chowk – left turn to get onto Ganesh Khind Road – Senapati Bapat Road – proceed towards destination. Alternately, vehicles can also use Shastri Nagar Chowk – Golf Club Chowk – Ambedkar Chowk – Sadalbaba Chowk – Sangamwadi Chowk – Engineering College Chowk – proceed towards destination.
- Vehicles heading towards Deccan using Tilak Road can use the following route: Tilak Road – Alka Talkies Road – left towards Senadatta Police Station Chowk – and then use Mhatre Flyover to proceed towards destination.
- Bajirao Road will be closed from Puram Chowk onwards. Shivaji Road will be closed from Gadgil statue Chowk.
- JM Road will be closed at SG Barve Road. Residents of Kothrud/Paud Road to use the route of Shimla Chowk to Ganesh Khind Chowk.
- Karve Road will be closed from Nal Stop Chowk. Vehicles coming from Paud Road or Karve Road to head towards Shivaji Nagar should use the route of Law College Road to Ganesh Khind Road, and ahead to destination.
- Residents living in the area around Kelkar Road to use the route of: Gadgil statue – Kumbhar Ves Chowk – Shahir Amar Chowk – RTO Chowk.
- FC Road will be closed from Khandobaji Baba Chowk to Chaphekar Chowk. Commuters can use the route of Law College Road.
- Nehru Road will be closed from Seven Loves Chowk to Pune Station.

## Recommendations

- As nearly 10 lakh people are expected to attend the rally, it is advisable to avoid travelling anywhere near the rally route.
- Cater for massive traffic congestions and diversions in most parts of Pune city.
- Cater to increased security along the rally route as well as in the entire Pune city.
- Pune Police have issued an advisory for the city's residents to not avoid unnecessary travels on the day of the rally; advised to stay indoors during the rally.
- The rally is expected to be peaceful but large crowds susceptible to incidental risks; advised to stay away from the rally.
- Monitor the local developments and stay updated on the advisories by the local police.

-----End of the Report-----

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